

METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM FOR
GROUPING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method of creating a lot containing at least one of a plurality of transportation lanes
5 is provided. In that method, each transportation lane includes an origination location and a
destination location and each transportation lane has an associated transport cost. That
method includes creating an origination area and a destination area, compiling all lanes
having origination locations falling within the origination area and destination locations
falling within the destination area, and increasing at least one of the origination area and the
10 destination area of the lot to include more lanes within the lot until the total of the transport
cost of all lanes included within the lot exceeds a predetermined amount. Another method of
creating lots containing transportation lanes having at least a minimum number of carriers is
also provided. In that method, each transportation lane includes an origination location and a
destination location and carriers are permitted to operate in limited origination locations and
15 limited destination locations. The method includes creating an origination area encompassing
a first geographic area, creating a destination area encompassing a second geographic area,
compiling all lanes having origination locations falling within the origination area and
destination locations falling within the destination area, and modifying at least one of the first
geographic area and the second geographic area to increase the number of carriers that may
20 operate in all lanes included in the origination area and the destination area.